



## Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

**For Immediate Release**

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Contact: Andrew Whalen, Communications Director  
office: (202) 225-6401 / cell: (202) 731-5116

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### **Rep. Shuler Votes for Unprecedented Transparency in Government *Landmark Lobbying Reform Moves to the President's Desk***

**Washington, D.C.** – Representative Heath Shuler voted to bring unprecedented transparency to the activity of lobbyists and to take a large step toward changing the way business is done in Washington.

“The American people deserve to know whether their representatives in Congress are working for them, or for the special interests and their lobbyists,” said Rep. Shuler. “I have been working since my first day in the House to bring the necessary and expected transparency and accountability to Congress. I am proud of this bill’s passage today and look forward to a prompt signature from the President.”

On the first day of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress the House of Representatives passed a landmark rules package that effectively broke the link between lobbyists and members of Congress by banning lobbyists from providing members or their staffs with gifts, meals, and private jets. The passage of S.1 expands those restrictions to Senators and their staffs.

S.1, the Honest Leadership, Open Government Act, also requires reporting on lobbyists who “bundle,” or collect campaign checks for Members of Congress. For the first time, a Member’s campaign would be required to report if lobbyist bundled more than \$15,000 in campaign contributions semiannually for that Member. Lobbyists will also be required to file reports on their lobbying twice as often each year, and for the first time to file them electronically in a public, searchable database. The legislation increases civil and criminal penalties for knowingly and corruptly violating lobbying disclosure rules.

The Honest Leadership, Open Government Act also ends the “K-Street Project” by prohibiting Members of Congress and their staff from attempting to influence employment decisions at lobbying firms in exchange for political access.

Finally, the bill will deny Congressional retirement benefits to Members of Congress who are convicted of bribery, perjury and other similar offenses.

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